



**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT S. ADLER ON FY 2018 CPSC BUDGET
REQUEST TO CONGRESS**

MAY 30, 2017

The Commission recently, by vote of 4-1, approved a budget submission to Congress in which our formal request for funding for FY 2018 is \$123 million. Although I joined the majority in this vote, I did so reluctantly because I believe that this funding level does not meet the public's need for protection from dangerous consumer products.

I voted as I did because, under the long-standing procedures for budget submission, agencies receive a "passback" budget number from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which they are then free to appeal. CPSC received OMB's passback number on March 20 and had until March 22 to file an appeal. At that time, for what I felt were persuasive strategic reasons, I joined a majority of the Commission in deciding not to appeal OMB's number despite my misgivings about the adequacy of the proposed funding level. Accordingly, given that I willingly joined in not appealing, I cannot justify joining in a motion to file a formal appeal now.

That said, I wish to state that I fully support the merits of the projects contained in Commissioner Elliot Kaye's proposed amendments to the FY 2018 CPSC budget. In fact, these proposals seek a modest increase of \$5.5 million in the agency's budget – a figure not large enough to be a rounding error in most agencies' budgets. Moreover, the proposals are thoughtful, substantive, and I would argue, noncontroversial. Who, for example, could object to enhancing the agency's outreach by providing additional resources to the Office of Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) to respond fully and quickly to inquiries from small businesses about how to comply with CPSC rules?

As I read his amendments, they mainly seek to enhance CPSC's ability to acquire and process critical safety information – and then to promote greater compliance in the market. They do not seek funding for drafting new mandatory rules, a typical source of contention at the agency.

Instead, they seek to enhance our work with the voluntary standards sector, which is a goal that most members of the Commission support. In short, my colleague has advanced a set of proposals that I endorse and plan to support in future CPSC budget submissions.

As I have said before, CPSC is the smallest of the federal health and safety agencies. Most of our sister agencies usually submit budget requests seeking *incremental* annual funding in amounts that exceed CPSC's *entire* budget. Yet, we remain an agency with one of the broadest jurisdictions in the government – over 15,000 categories of products. The net effect of our minuscule budgets is less protection for millions of vulnerable consumers – particularly our children – from products that can cut, amputate, burn, choke, and poison them.

We as a nation can do better, and I hope that the Congress will see fit to provide greater resources for us to do our job more effectively.